

controller 170 of the telecommunications network 48. The control unit 168 is connected using administration channels 180, and the connection controller 170 is connected using administration channels 182. These administration channels 180, 182 are used to transmit to the switching offices 12, 14, 16, 172 of the telecommunications network 48 setting information and the data which is necessary for making the respective features available. The controller 36 is also connected to a RADIUS controller 174 and to a gatekeeper controller 176. The controller 36 uses program interfaces to transmit setting information to the RADIUS controller 174 and/or to the gatekeeper controller 176 depending on the type of setting information. This setting information relates to services and/or features which are made available to a subscriber using the IP network 34. The setting information is transmitted by the RADIUS controller 174 using a conventional administration connection 184, for example using an SNMP connection, to the RADIUS server 188. The setting information is transmitted by the gatekeeper controller 176, using a conventional administration connection 186, for example using an SNMP connection, to the gatekeeper 22. Both the RADIUS server 188 and the gatekeeper 22 are network elements of the IP network 34. A media gateway 178 is provided for transmitting useful data between the IP network 34 and at least one switching office of the telecommunications network 48.

In the present exemplary embodiment, the controller 36 is implemented as a data processing system with an "IP business manager" program module. The feature controller 168, the connection controller 170, the RADIUS controller 174 and the gatekeeper controller 176 are also implemented using program modules which are processed on the same data processing system. The program modules 168, 170, 174, 176 are also used for subscriber administration in conventional telecommunications systems. To date, it has been necessary to perform the subscriber administration separately in each of these program modules 168, 170, 174, 176. This is made more difficult, in particular, by different operator interfaces and different operating principles of the individual program modules. Also, not all of these program modules have a user-friendly interface. The setting and

configuration of individual services and features requires settings in a number of program modules 168, 170, 174, 176.

In the prior art, in the case of the program modules 168, 170, 174, 176 which are to be operated separately, the operator must himself check the entries for consistency. Malfunctions owing to contradictory settings in the program modules 168, 170, 174, 176 have been able to lead to malfunctions in the telecommunications system. In the present exemplary embodiment, the controller 36 can be used to make the settings easily using a clearly organized operator interface 60 for all the subscribers 26 to 32 both of the telecommunications network 48 and of the IP network 34. If the telecommunications system 10 also supports the provision of features of the telecommunications network 48 for subscribers 30, 32, of the IP network 34, these features can be set and configured using the controller 36. The controller 36 has open program interfaces to the control units 168, 170, 174, 176. Further control units also can be easily connected to the controller 36 using these program interfaces.

In other exemplary embodiments, the program modules 168, 170, 174, 176 are not processed by the same data processing system, as is the case with the program module of the controller 36. The exchange of data between the different data processing systems is then carried out using, for example, a known network connection.

Although the present invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments, those of skill in the art will recognize that changes may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the hereafter appended claims.